



Columbia Adventist Academy

Alumni Echoes

Summer 2020

“Our **mission** is to provide alumni the opportunity to reconnect, encourage former students to strengthen their personal and spiritual values, and provide financial support for the future. Our **vision** is a community of alumni, strengthened through reconnecting.” - CAA Alumni

On the Shoulders of Giants

When the Clarks donated land for an academy back in the early 1900s, they had a vision for Christian education. They didn't, however, have the vision to see 2020. Those who have shaped the school since those early beginnings have each built on the actions and visions of those who went before them. Today we continue to have alumni who have built on those actions and supported and forwarded the mission of what was Columbia Academy during their tenure. Now we stand on their shoulders and continue the legacy they left behind.

In this article we are sharing stories of one of those individuals and two couples who have been supporters of Columbia Adventist Academy. We know there are many others who have recently passed away that we could have featured, and in future newsletters we would be glad to do that, but these four have been brought to our attention and were accompanied with stories we'd like to pass on to you.

Ben and Carol Ward '50

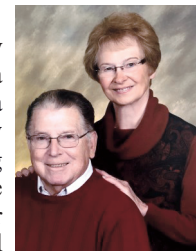
Ben Ward was friendly and welcoming, so his dorm room often became the gathering place for “bull sessions.” He was a leader in his class and the boy's club, and as a member of the boys' quartet he was admired by the student body when the quartet sang. After graduating, he married his high school sweetheart, Carol, and they headed for Walla Walla where they would spend most of the next seven decades. With a love for music, Ben organized his family into a singing group and together they traveled around the country sharing gospel music. Ben and Carol were leaders in organizing and promoting CAA alumni to gather at the Fountain of Youth in the California Desert. On Sabbath, the CAA alumni would plan the church service, often inviting not only their classmates, but the students and staff of CAA to come and give presentations. It made for some very fun times that were had as alumni worshiped together and swapped stories of “the good old days” during the potluck where there could be more than 100 alumni and all the old favorite casseroles and cakes were supplied aplenty with the oversight of Lorena Cook-Lee.



Ben and Carol's legacy is their leadership and a love for their classmates with the ability to not only keep pulling them back together throughout their lifetime, but also their ability to pull others into their sphere of friends, making them feel as much or more a part of CAA as they did their own schools. We gladly claim their friends as ours. Their music will also be fondly remembered. (There is a celebration of life planned in College Place, Washington, at the Village Church, where Ben and Carol were both members since 1958. The exact date will be determined once our current COVID-19 restrictions on assembly have passed.)

Glenn and Shirley Davis '53

Although money was very tight, Shirley's parents found a way to enroll her at Columbia Academy in 1951. Her academy experience involved making close, lifelong friends like Mona, Diane, and Glen. Her music experience included playing the saxophone, singing in the school choir and smaller groups, piano, and Glen Davis, a drummer, and also a junior. Both of them loved academy life, participating in the many activities the school had to offer, including time at Lewisville Park and the spiritual activities where their love for God grew. Spring of 1953 found them graduating together. They continued to stay in close contact with classmates and they (especially Shirley) organized events for the Class of '53 from time to time, with several of them happening during the last few years of Shirley's life.



In 1970 they moved back to Columbia Academy, as Glen accepted the principal position where he had gone to school and done his first student teaching. They threw themselves into the school activities once again, this time to make it the memorable time for students that they had experienced. This would be their final home and community, leaving a huge hole when they passed away after being involved in the school and community for almost 50 years.

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— CALENDAR —

**Alumni Homecoming
April 9 - 10, 2021**

**Columbia Classics
(Online Only)
September 12, 2020**

**Davis Memorial
Christmas Tree
Lighting
December 6, 2020**

**On Campus
September 11, 2021**
Alumni Reunion for all
alumni classes of
1971 and prior

Photo Credits

Gene Heinrich
Larry Hiday
Anonymous photographers
Facebook Group contributors
(Alumni Weekend 2020)

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Joella LaVallee ('16)
for editing, formatting, researching,
and writing articles for this edition
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Principal's Message

Dear CAA Alums,

We are in the midst of a crisis in our country and around the world that few, if any of us, could have imagined when we sat down and made our New Year's resolutions for 2020. Thankfully, our Creator knows the end from the beginning and while He knows, we could not handle that power if it was ours; we can trust Him to use it to help us navigate whatever life throws our way this side of eternity.

When I arrived at CAA three years ago and walked the campus, I was inspired by the rich history of our school. As we look forward, this rich history continues to inspire and guide the decisions we make for the future. One of the portions of CAA's history that has shaped my vision for the future is the legacy left by those involved with the farm, construction, and other industrial arts programs.

While CAA is committing resources to the continued growth and expansion of programs for college bound students, we must not ignore the fact that in today's economy – trade, technology, and industry careers are growing at ever-increasing rates. Giving every student, even those who are college bound, an opportunity to learn skills important for this ever-growing and lucrative segment of our economy must be an integral part of CAA's educational vision.

Over the last three years, we have taken small steps toward reviving our industrial arts program in a way that is relevant to 21st century students and their potential employers. However, it is time to move beyond baby steps. For the 2020-2021 school year, we are launching a major initiative that builds on our rich history and positions us for the future. With Doug Schmidt ('80) as our new Industrial Arts teacher, we plan to develop meaningful partnerships with our local contractors, automotive technicians, and the broader industrial community that will enrich student learning and equip them for meaningful careers with employers both locally and abroad.

If you would like to invest in the success of this exciting endeavor, please email doug.schmidt@caaschool.org or larry.hiday@caaschool.org to learn about opportunities to help provide either the finances, supplies, or student mentoring necessary to keep your school relevant in the 21st century.



Sincerely,

Gene Heinrich, Principal

(On the Shoulders of Giants continued)

They leave behind a legacy of total commitment to CAA, a second generation of CAA alumni with their work ethos, and a trust in their will which has allowed for continued excellence in quality education and the ability to reach out to the community (just as they did), through CAA's annual Davis Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting.



Carl Hendrickson '62

Carl Hendrickson was born in Fort Blanding, Florida and at the age of 14 started high school at Columbia Academy having made his way from the East Coast to the West Coast. He enjoyed band

where he played the trumpet, the campus dairy where he learned his work ethic, and he especially enjoyed his friends, some of whom have continued to be close friends to this day; Joanne Bauer, Ginger and Earl Brockman, and Mary Timmons, to name a few. He was class president his senior year, 1962, and set

the bar for future generations, both in the area of active class leadership and work ethic.

Carl completed his Bachelor degree at Walla Walla College (later completing his Master of Science) and became a teacher. He eventually returned to the Oregon Conference, as a teaching principal in Cedar Creek, and later at Meadow Glade Elementary School as a teacher.

In addition to his friends, Carl's interests included birding and other outdoor activities, gospel concerts, and finding new restaurants to try out with his loving wife Judy.

His legacy lies in passing on to future generations his work ethic, a love for driving trucks and heavy equipment, construction and land development, and his support for CAA. His son Scott, and Scott's sons Chase and Kody, were all presidents of their respective senior classes, have the same passion for construction and driving heavy equipment, have been active supporters of CAA, and look forward to the soon return of Jesus.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- **New Classes:** Senior Experience, Outdoor Leadership, Auto Mech, Running, and Intentional Living
- **Columbia Classics** saw over 60 alumni gathering for a reunion starring men's quartet, an Olympic Medalist, and good food!
- **Fundraiser for Worthy Student** support with Kristina Lopez ('00) and Tad Worku raised over \$200,000. Praise God!
- **Online success** (due to Covid) with continuing CAA's excellence in education
- **Graduation 2020** on the NPUC campus with students in their individual golf carts

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Thanks to you, our alumni, we have been able to accomplish so much during this past year! Following are some of the projects we have been able to work on this year because of your generous donations.

Technology, Athletics, Music, Reintroduction of Industrial Ed Classes, Student Scholarships, and so much more!

New Staff Join CAA's Expanding Program

We are excited to announce that **Jeni Schmidt** is joining the CAA staff. Jeni will serve as Vice-Principal for Instruction and Curriculum and her primary teaching responsibilities will include English and English as a Second Language.

Jeni brings over nineteen years of high school teaching experience with her, including seven years as a lead teacher and instructional coach at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. She is a past recipient of Alumni Awards Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Award and known far and wide by her former students as "the best high school teacher that I ever had."

When asked how she wants her students to view her as a teacher she says, "I want students to see me as a lover of Christ. I want them to see that He influences what I do in my classroom, and my relationships with them." Jeni is also an animal lover. When we last checked she had two dogs, two cats, and two horses. She is married to Doug Schmidt ('80) and they have two children.



James Mayne joins CAA as a History and Bible teacher. James has spent the last seven years at Paradise Adventist Academy where he's known to be humble, articulate and someone who goes out of his way to engage and mentor every student.

James is a graduate of Walla Walla University where he received the Lindgren Award as the Outstanding History Graduate in 2013. When he is not teaching James enjoys art, mountaineering, rock climbing, motorcycles, and above all else – spending time with his wife Sara and their soon to be one year old son, Theodore.

When asked how he wants his students to view him Mr. Mayne says, "I want my students to view me as a person who deeply cares about them, who wants their well-being to be at the forefront of what we do in class." Mr. Mayne is currently finishing his Master of Arts in History with a focus on North America.



Additionally, **Doug Schmidt** ('80) is joining CAA's staff to help lead an initiative that includes relaunching our Industrial Arts program and expanding services for students seeking trade and technology careers. Doug is a master teacher with a broad base of educational experience. He is an innovator, listener, mentor, and friend to students. He sees it as his mission to help students experience success in learning while coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

When asked about the importance of helping students succeed he said, "If a student doesn't feel successful, they're gonna give up. And that's why it's so important for a teacher to make sure that there is always hope, that you are going to be there with them. You have to make sure that no matter what it is, each day they have to feel some sort of success. Otherwise it just doesn't work."

When asked to describe his job of a teacher he said, "My job is to create a thirst and hunger for growth and learning." He went on to say that, "To me everything we do on campus are patches, and the story of Jesus is the thread that brings it all together. Everything we do is an excuse to share Jesus!"



We believe these additions to our staff are going to enrich the lives of our students and give our alumni even more reasons to be proud to call Columbia Adventist Academy their school.

Alumni Weekend 2020 Goes Digital

Social distancing in the time of COVID-19 can make reunions difficult for some. But that did not stop CAA alumni from reconnecting virtually through an Alumni Homecoming Facebook Group! Stories, memories, and photos filled the home page as hundreds of alumni from all over the world came together to share what they love about CAA, and what they have been doing since graduation. Here are some of the highlights!



20th Honor Year - Class of 2000



10th Honor Year - Class of 2010

Lasting Loves

“Did anyone else marry their high school sweetheart?” Veronica (Schafer) Roderick, class of 1988, asked the Facebook group. While some romances may come and go, there are many couples still in love who met in the halls of CAA. A few married shortly after graduation, and others reconnected years later. Some are recently engaged or married, while others are celebrating their 70th anniversary.

Whether they found a lifelong spouse or best friend, alumni everywhere have created strong and lasting relationships during their time at CAA.

Water Tower Climbs and Fines

Standing tall and proud, the water tower has always been a picturesque staple of the CAA campus. Over the years, many students have attempted to sneak up the tower to leave their mark before graduation. While there may still be initials permanently carved near the top, some student rebels marked it with temporary signs of accomplishment, including toilet paper decorations and a giant hula skirt.

While some succeeded to evade notice, others were caught by staff members who were often also their parents. Those who may have avoided the consequences during their time as a student jokingly inquired about the statute of limitations before admitting anything. Garret Ermshar (class of 1984) offered up an idea, saying, “All who are feeling guilty can make their donations to Columbia endowment with whatever fine they think it would be with inflation today.”



25th Honor Year - Class of 1995

Timeless Tricks

Can you remember a fun, harmless joke that was played while you were a student? Alumni chimed in with their stories, ranging from girls' dorm door-switching to campus laser tag. Someone fondly remembered the library "safety scissors", which were assembled backwards to prevent the unsuspecting user from being able to cut anything.

Sometimes a pizza was sent to an unsuspecting recipient, or some "valuable" rolls of toilet paper found themselves strewn over a building. One alumnus mentioned hiding under the covers of a bed to jump out and surprise a friend. But perhaps the most classic caper of all was the annual filling of the fountain with laundry soap bubbles, to celebrate the long-awaited graduation of the senior class.

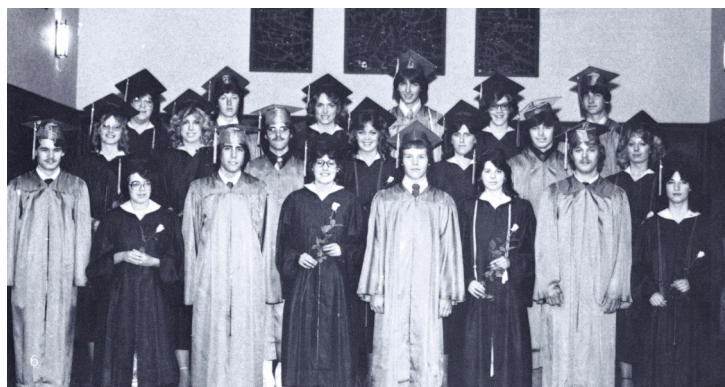


30th Honor Year - Class of 1990

Remember...?

Alumni Weekend is a time for reminiscing, and despite being online our Kodiaks shared all kinds of memories from their time at CAA. Some remembered Fall Festival, when it was in the old barn with a hay maze and lots of cotton candy. Others recalled band and choir trips, or movie nights in the gym with popcorn and classics. Also in the gym was Donkey Basketball, an annual, comedic classic for CAA's family. A few lucky classes remember meeting Desmond Doss and the impact his visit and story had on their lives.

These are just a few of the countless memories that have been made at CAA, and we are confident there are many more to come. See you next year!



40th Honor Year - Class of 1980



50th Honor Year - Class of 1970



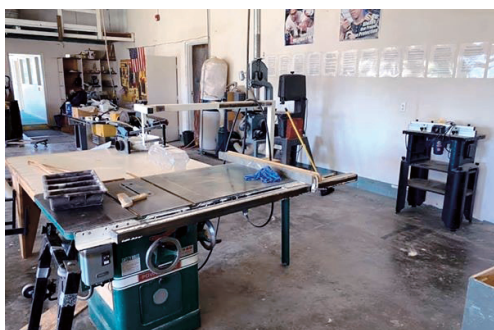
60th Honor Year - Class of 1960



70th Honor Year - Class of 1950

Workshopping CAA's Practical Arts Program

As a high school student at CAA, Doug Schmidt was heavily impacted by a series of classes he began taking as a freshman: General Shop, Welding, Woodworking, Auto Mechanics and Construction. Not only did he learn skills that he continues to use today, but he found creative joy and positive mentors. Growing



up without a dad, Schmidt found Reavis Belin, Doug Dietrich, and Herb Waters to be more than teachers. They were mentors in love with their craft and eager to share.

Fast forward to this summer. It is Schmidt's first year as a teacher at Columbia Academy, and he is hard at work in the shop. He has been pleased to find an abundance of quality woodworking machinery, thanks to the hard work of alumnus Jim Reed ('78) and the generous donation by alumnus Landon Rogers ('10). Yet there are still some crucial needs: purchasing a SawStop table saw, replacing the lost and broken

tools, upgrading the building's electrical to accommodate the equipment, and improving the area lighting. Eventually, Schmidt plans to upgrade the welding equipment by adding MIG welders to the fleet. Columbia is looking for "friends of the shop" to help with these updates.

Principal Gene Heinrich has a strong vision for a program that will give students practical skills for a lifetime, a tradition long honored by Columbia Academy. Schmidt is eager to be a part of that vision. For students, this means an introduction into woodworking and welding, skills that can be used for a lifetime.

Thoughts From the Chaplain's Office - Aaron Payne

A recent experience helped me realize that we often overlook the impact our gifts can have on others' lives. In our current world of uncertainty, I was reminded of the joy that comes with both receiving and giving and how we need to be living our lives to bless others.

My three sons and I just returned home from visiting family back east. Before leaving on our trip my youngest, Jude, was intentional about asking if he could keep some of his money in my wallet so it wouldn't get lost. On the last day of our vacation Jude remembered his money and asked to make a special stop at a store to purchase a thoughtful gift for his mother. He went into the store with his older cousin but the store didn't carry what he was looking for. Still having the desire to spend his money on someone else he found something that he knew I would love. He came back

to the car with a smile on his face and gave me his thoughtful gift. As you can imagine the gesture was even more meaningful than the gift.

I was reminded of this experience a few days later as I read the parable of the "Rich Fool" in Luke 12. Jesus was teaching about the dangers of coveting when he told the story of a rich man who had such an abundant harvest that he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones. As the story goes the very night the project was completed the man with such vast possessions died. Jesus asked the question, "whose will those things be which you have provided?" This man was so blessed but it seems it was all for himself. Such a stark contrast to the way Jude approached life on our trip. He was anxious to take from what was his and provide a gift for someone



else. Even when his first plan didn't work out he pushed forward and found a thoughtful way to give to me.

Jesus said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." This instructs us to take advantage of the opportunities to bless others today because we may not have the same chance tomorrow. God calls each of us to live with others in mind, always looking for ways to give from what we have to bless others. It's a great way to live. I know from my experience with Jude that it makes a difference!

The Senior Experience: It's Not What It Used to Be

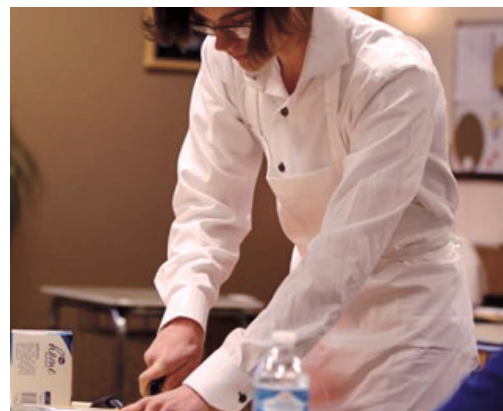
When you think of your senior year, what memory or class stands out? This has been quite an historic year for seniors of '20, and it isn't just due to Covid-19. It began in the fall of 2019, which now seems an eternity ago, when seniors returned to find that a new class had been added to their agenda that would culminate with a senior project and portfolio. This class was the Senior Experience Class and our resident artist and therapist, Nita Yuros, undertook to become the fearless leader of this new enterprise.

In the beginning students weren't too excited about the prospect, until they began to realize the potential this class held and began coming up with ideas for their projects which needed to include research, a product, community impact, documentation of 60+ hours of involvement, and a formal presentation to a panel of community members. Projects exhibited a wide diversity: the research and purchasing of equipment for a CAA recording studio, reading and recording mindfulness stories with accompanying music composed by the student, a video documentary of military veterans, and a hand-drawn planner available online to help others with their organization



are just a few examples.

Following her formal presentation, Aspen Schafer, whose senior project dealt with animals and mental health, said "[It] really pushed me out of my comfort zone in many ways. It helped me create personal goals for myself and made me manage my time well and efficiently." In giving advice to future seniors, Eddie Coberly, a senior and book author, advised them to "choose a project that you will enjoy doing. You will most feel like working on it if you want to rather than if you have to, and enjoying the project will make the hour requirement pass by so much faster." One community panelist stated that in all the many Senior Project presentations he had heard at other high schools in addition to the speech classes he taught at the college level, he had not seen such a high caliber of public speaking. The CAA's



seniors' stage presence, preparation of delivery, and formal project defense presentations also exceeded his prior experiences and expectations.

Having completed their projects, senior graduation was an actual event at CAA with a golf cart for each student to "march" down the aisle in style (see photos). CAA is proud of our seniors and look forward to seeing how they make the world a better place as they continue to develop and use their God-given gifts.



Columbia Adventist Academy

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COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND APRIL 9 - 10, 2021

We will be honoring the alumni honor groups of 1961 and prior and the classes of 1960 & 1961, 1970 & 1971, 1980 & 1981, 1990 & 1991, 1995 & 1996, 2000 & 2001, 2010 & 2011, and 2021.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate your class reunion, please contact Larry Hiday at CAA at (360) 687-3161 or hidala@caaschool.org.

The weekend schedule will be as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Friday Evening Vespers | <i>Presented by the Class of 2011</i> in the CAA forum |
| Sabbath School | <i>Presented by the Class of 2001</i> |
| Church | <i>Presented by the Class of 1991</i> |
| Sabbath Afternoon Program | <i>Presented by the Class of 1971</i> |
| Saturday Night Event and Basketball Games | in the CAA gym |

****All weekend meetings except Vespers will be held in the Meadow Glade Church.***
Registration will be in the school forum*

Columbia Classics (Classes of 1970 and prior) Weekend (CAA Cafeteria and Chapel)
Will not be held on campus due to COVID-19 WA State regulations but will be online September 12.
We will hope to meet again on CAA Campus September 11, 2021